decided to provide the following financial package/incentives to the affected registered owners of the older commercial/transport vehicles for replacement of new vehicles:—

(i) exemption from the payment of sales tax on purchase of new commercial motor vehicles; and

(ii) subsidy of 4% on interest rate on the loans to be raised from Delhi Financial Corporation on the replacement of new vehicles.

Pending Highway Proposals from Meghalaya

560. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for road projects from the State Government of Meghalaya with regard to National Highways are lying pending;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the above proposals arc likely to be cleard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Examination of proposals which is done in consultation with various other agencies takes some time. It is not possible to indicate time by which these can be cleared. However, all efforts arc made to clear them as early as possible.

Lengthening of Multi-Purpose Cargo Berth at Visakhapatnam

561. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether multi-purpose cargo berth of Visakhapatnam port is being lengthened;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when would it be ready?